

REMARKS

The subject Preliminary Amendment is being filed to correct the reference mentioned on page 2, lines 9 and 10 of the specification.

In that regard, "U.S. Patent No. 3,421,494" has been changed to --Japanese Patent Publication No. 3-421494--.

SECOND SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the document listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. A copy of the listed Japanese document is also enclosed.

The concise explanation of relevance for the non-English document is provided by its accompanying English-language abstract is discussed beginning on page 2, line 9 of the specification.

It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that an initialed copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

CONCLUSION

Due consideration and prompt passage to issue are respectfully requested.

Appln. No.: 10/552,989

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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| FORM PTO 1449 ( <i>modified</i> )<br><br>U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE<br>PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE<br><br>LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S)<br>(Use several sheets if necessary)<br><br>Submitted to the PTO: December 13, 2006 |  |                    |                | ATTY DOCKET NO.<br><b>00684.109158</b> |       | APPLICATION NO.<br><b>10/552,989</b> |                                       |
|   |  |                    |                | APPLICANT<br><b>KOHEI NAGAYAMA</b>     |       |                                      |                                       |
|   |  |                    |                | FILING DATE<br><b>October 13, 2005</b> |       | GROUP<br><b>2629</b>                 |                                       |
| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS   |  |                    |                |  |       |                                      |                                       |
|   |  |                    |                |  |       |                                      |                                       |
| *EXAMINER<br>INITIAL  |  | DOCUMENT<br>NUMBER | DATE           | NAME                                   | CLASS | SUBCLASS                             | FILING DATE<br>IF APPROPRIATE         |
|   |  |                    |                |  |       |                                      |                                       |
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| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS  |  |                    |                |  |       |                                      |                                       |
|   |  | DOCUMENT<br>NUMBER | DATE           | COUNTRY                                | CLASS | SUBCLASS                             | TRANSLATION<br>YES/NO/<br>OR ABSTRACT |
|   |  | <b>3421494</b>     | <b>04/2003</b> | <b>Japan</b>                           |       |                                      | <b>Abstract</b>                       |
|   |  |                    |                |  |       |                                      |                                       |
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|   |  |                    |                |  |       |                                      |                                       |
| OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)  |  |                    |                |  |       |                                      |                                       |
|   |  |                    |                |  |       |                                      |                                       |
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| EXAMINER  |  |                    |                | DATE CONSIDERED                        |       |                                      |                                       |

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.